

HANDOUT 3.3: HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS**Hypothetical Situations**

Directions

Please read each of the following situations then answer the following questions for each situation.

1. What groups or individuals were involved in the project activities described in each situation?
2. In what ways were they involved?
3. What were (and might be) the benefits of their involvement?
4. What problems might arise in the future?

Situation One

In the annual assessment of a government-run protected area management project, a team of evaluators was engaged from a major university. The evaluators explained the basic outline of the evaluation to the local community and then administered questionnaires. They also interviewed a few community leaders. The evaluators then presented the main findings to a group of community members. They then returned to the university to write up their report that they then distributed to project donors.

Situation Two

A local NGO was given a contract to develop a land use plan to be used to develop a Marine Protected Area management (MPA) project. The NGO asked community leaders to identify three community members to participate on the team along with three NGO staff members. The team met several times to develop the land use plan. At times they broke into pairs to carry out the study and the full team met to analyze the results. They then presented the results to the wider community at various community meetings and discussed recommendations to be included in the MPA project.

Situation Three

A major marine protected area management scheme is underway. The plan calls for building capacities of local communities so that they can be actively involved in carrying out major aspects of the project. They are involved at some level in all phases of the management plan. Government and local NGO staff members are monitoring the plan and determine what is succeeding and what aspects need changing. Community members are consulted on these decisions, as the monitoring team feels necessary.

Situation Four

Local communities approached local officials about problems they were facing from run-off from a nearby food-processing plant. A committee composed of community members, local officials, government extension workers, and local NGOs assessed the situation. They developed a proposal to secure a grant to help then scientifically monitor environmental indicators. Once funding was received, a community management committee was established. Committee members received training in a number of areas.

The committee met with NGO managers monthly to review progress and to plan future activities. During the first few months of the project, meetings were held to jointly determine indicators of success and to set up a project monitoring system. Community members were employed as natural resource management para-technicians and community development extension workers were trained in information-gathering techniques.

Every six months members of the management committee and the NGO staff analyze the information gathered and present the findings to the wider community. Joint decisions are then made about putting the recommendations into practice.

Source: Francis, J., Johnstone, R., van't Hof, T., van Zwol, C. and Sadacharan, D. (editors). Training for the Sustainable Management of Marine Protected Areas: A Training Manual for MPA Managers. CZMC/WIOMSA. 115 p.